

FS Joseph Edmond Cloutier R/97434 RCAF

Joseph was born on 15 August 1916 in Penetanguishene, Ontario, Canada, the son of Norman Cloutier and Lucinda Cloutier nee Burke. In December 1941 he married Doris Robillard in Penetanguishene.

Educated at St Helen's Separate School and Western Commerce, Toronto, Joseph was employed as a hotel clerk in Penetanguishene when, in February 1941, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RCAF.

Called up in March 1941, Joseph completed his pilot training in Canada in March 1942 with the award of his Wings, and embarked for the UK in May.

Following advanced training at 17 OTU RAF Upwood, Huntingdonshire, in September 1942 Joseph was posted to 139 Sqn at RAF Horsham St Faith, Norfolk, flying the Blenheim. As the squadron began conversion to the Mosquito, in November Joseph completed his conversion training at 1655 Mosquito Training Unit and, on 8 December 1942, was posted to 105 Sqn at RAF Marham, Norfolk.

On 22 December 1942 six 105 Sqn Mosquitos were allocated to intruder missions into Belgium, Holland and NW Germany, attacking individual targets. Joseph's target was the engine sheds at Dendermonde, NW of Brussels, Belgium.

At 15:52 Joseph departed RAF Marham, Norfolk in Mosquito IV DZ360 (GB-A).

Last seen encountering light flak whilst crossing the coast at Dunkirk, at 16:46 the Mosquito crashed near Kanaalkade, Axel, Zeeland, killing both crew.

Also killed: Sgt Albert Cecil Foxley (Nav)

Joseph is buried in Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel 146

Photo Source: veterans.gc.ca

